

PATENT
Appl. No. 09/601,161
Attorney Docket No. 450101-02195

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for inputting a remote control signal outputted from a wireless remote control device and switching a display screen in response to the remote control signal to provide various information by selection on a predetermined menu screen, the apparatus comprising:

first determination means for determining whether or not a first operation key is operated on the remote control device to designate a state of the first operation key as operated or not operated;

screen switching means for switching the display screen from a first display screen to a second display screen if the first determination means determines that the first operation key is operated, the screen switching means operating to display the second display screen while the first operation key is operated; and

second determination means for determining whether or not the second operation key is operated substantially simultaneously with the operation of the first operation key,

wherein if the second determination means determines that the second operation key is operated substantially simultaneously with the operation of the first operation key, processing based on operation of the second operation key is received and displayed on the second display screen, ~~and~~

wherein the screen switching means switches the display screen from the second display screen back to the first display screen, if the first determination means subsequently determines that the state of the first operation key changed from not operated to operated, and

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wherein said information is a series of video information based on a video signal, and the second display screen is a screen on which index images, for guiding scenes of said series of video information based on a video signal, are arranged in time series.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

layer screen display means for displaying at least a screen in a first layer and a screen in a second layer lower than the first layer; and

layer switching means for switching the screen in the first layer and the screen in the second layer each other, based on a control signal from the remote control device, characterized in that

the first display screen is the screen in the second layer, and the display screen is switched from the screen in the second layer to the second display screen if the first determination means determines that the first operation key is operated, and

when the display screen is the screen in the first layer, the display screen is switched from the screen in the first layer to a third display screen if the first determination means determines that the first operation key is operated.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the remote control device includes a grip part which can be gripped by one hand, first operation means provided at a position where the first operation means can be operated by a thumb finger when the grip part is gripped by one hand, and second operation means provided at a position where the second

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operation means can be operated by a forefinger when the grip part is gripped by one hand, and the first operation key is the first operation means and the second operation means is the second operation key.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An information providing method for inputting a remote control signal outputted from a wireless remote control device and for switching a display screen in response to the remote control signal to provide various information by selection on a predetermined menu screen, the method comprising:

a first determination step of determining whether or not a first operation key is operated on the remote control device to designate a state of the first operation key as operated or not operated;

a screen switching step of switching the display screen from a first display screen to a second display screen if it is determined in the first determination step that the first operation key is operated, the screen switching means operating to display the second display screen while the first operation key is operated; and

a second determination step of determining whether or not the second operation key is operated substantially simultaneously with the operation of the first operation key,

wherein if it is determined in the second determination step that the second operation key is operated substantially simultaneously with the operation of the first operation key, processing based on operation of the second operation key is received and displayed on the second display screen, and

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wherein the screen switching means switches the display screen from the second display screen back to the first display screen, if the first determination means subsequently determines that the state of the first operation key changed from not operated to operated, and

wherein said information is a series of video information based on a video signal, and the second display screen is a screen on which index images, for guiding scenes of said series of video information based on a video signal, are arranged in time series.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A method according to claim 6, further comprising:

a layer screen display step of displaying at least a screen in a first layer and a screen in a second layer lower than the first layer; and

a layer switching step of switching the screen in the first layer and the screen in the second layer each other, based on a control signal from the remote control device, characterized in that

the first display screen is the screen in the second layer, and the display screen is switched from the screen in the second layer to the second display screen if it is determined in the first determination step that the first operation key is operated, and

when the display screen is the screen in the first layer, the display screen is switched from the screen in the first layer to a third display screen if it is determined in the first determination step that the first operation key is operated.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 6, characterized in that the remote control

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device includes a grip step of gripping a grip part by one hand, a first operation step of operating the first operation key provided at a position where the first operation key can be operated by a thumb finger when the grip part is gripped by one hand, and a second operation step of operating the second operation key provided at a position where the second operation key can be operated by a forefinger when the grip part is gripped by one hand.

10. (Canceled)